Low Cost Aerial Delivery System (LCADS)

What It Is:

When it's not desirable — or not possible — to recover parachutes and containers from an airdrop mission, we use LCADS, the low-cost aerial delivery system. LCADS consists of a commercially available parachute and an economically designed container, both meant for one-time use.

Why It's Needed:

Over 35,000 tons of relief supplies — like food, clothing and shelters — were airdropped into Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a humanitarian relief effort between 1993 and 1995. During the operation, the U.S. quickly depleted its stock of 26-foot "ringslot" parachutes and A-22 containers, two items that form the backbone of aerial resupply for the Army. These systems were intended for multiple use, but none were ever recovered. The LCADS was designed to replace the standard parachute and container with a cheaper, one-time-use version. Though the LCADS wasn't completed until after the Bosnian relief effort ended, this new airdrop technology will play a leading role in future humanitarian operations.

How It Works:

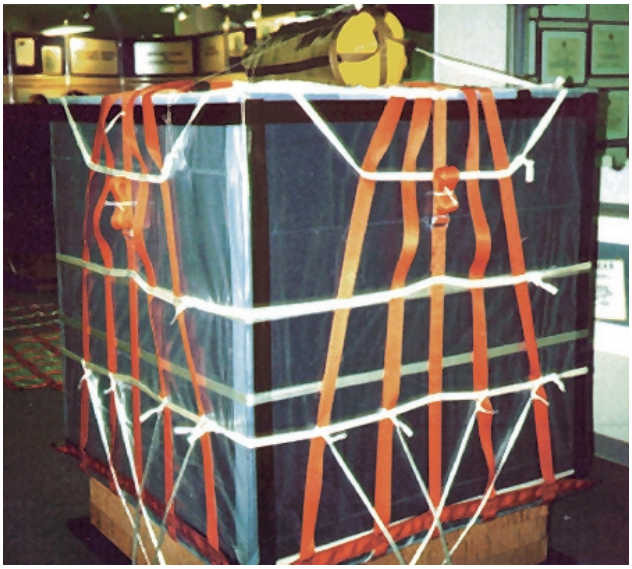
We're now investigating the use of new nonwoven materials for the parachute and recycled plastic materials for the container — a move that could reduce the LCADS cost to under $400 per system.

	EXISTING	LCADS
PARACHUTE:	26-foot ringslot	26-foot ringslot
Cost:	$440	$360
Payload:	2,200 lb	2,200 lb
Rate of descent:	70-90 ft/sec	70-90 ft/sec
CONTAINER:	A-22	LCADS
Cost:	$230	$100
Payload:	2,200 lb	2,200 lb
Volume:	48" × 53½" × 56"	48" × 48" × 48"
TOTAL COST:	**$670**	**$460**

Benefits:

Substantial Savings…The parachute is prepackaged and produced faster by the manufacturer, and the container is easy to build and rig. That means we save both time and manpower.

Steady Supply…Now we can run humanitarian airdrop missions — at a much lower cost — without depleting our war reserves.



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Latest Version

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